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The book might have been written more concisely and reconstruction would make many a sentence clearer.

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FLETCHER, C. R. L. *The Making of Western Europe*. Pp. xi, 409. Price, \$2.50. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1912.

It is interesting to come upon a history of the Middle Ages written with no pedagogical purpose but prompted solely by the author's interest in the period, an interest first aroused, as he confesses, by reading Professor Kerr's volume on the "Dark Ages" in the "Periods of European Literature." That "mere idleness" should have prompted him thereafter to set down such ideas as he had been able to collect from his readings, might lead one to suspect that only a disjointed and cursory survey would be the result, but this would be a mistake. Mr. Fletcher has read widely and well not only in the sources but in some of the best modern literature on the period to be found in the leading languages, and the result is a fresh and well-considered discussion of the history of western Europe, exclusive of England, from 300 to 1000 A. D. The subject is not one that lends itself readily to general treatment and naturally not all portions of the book are equally satisfactory. This is true for example of his discussions of church institutions and of the chapter on the confused period between the death of Charlemagne and the accession of Otto I, where the sacrifice of details for a general discussion of the trend of events would have added to the clearness. Likewise the foundation of the German monarchy on the Church and the general ecclesiastical policy of Otto, followed as it was by nearly all the emperors down to the accession of Frederick II, are not brought out with sufficient emphasis. On the whole, however, the plan and execution of the work make it for the general reader the most satisfactory history of the times that I am acquainted with.

The style is easy and vivid but descends at times to colloquialisms that seem out of place in a book of this character. If it had been written in this country we should have been treated by English critics to severe strictures in respect to its *slang* and *Americanisms*. The race prejudices of Mr. Fletcher when speaking of the peoples of eastern Europe also seem unnecessary in a work of this character, but as the author wrote the book for his own pleasure and not as a text-book, such expressions can be considered only as a matter of taste.

It is to be expected that a number of errors in detail should find their way into a narrative covering some seven hundred years of European history, and some of these may be pointed out. Senators in the later empire were not exempt from the annona tax (p. 30); we have no authority to prove that Constantine's army was penetrated with Christianity in 312 (p. 52); while the Vandals agreed to pay a rent of grain and oil for the province of Africa there seems to be no evidence that they really did so (p. 85); Clovis did not obtain his wife by stealing or enticing her away (p. 107); not many lives of the saints of the sixth and seventh century are contemporary documents (p. 161); Grimoald was mayor of Austrasia, not Neustria (p. 179); during the years 924-962 there were still people calling themselves emperors in the West (p. 272); the influence of the False Decretals on the policy

and success of Pope Nicholas I is overestimated, if indeed it existed at all (p. 299); there seems to have been no "Duchy of France" in the tenth century (pp. 339, 349); the absolute dependence of the daughter houses on the monastery of Cluny was a relatively late development in the constitution of that Congregation (p. 361); the whole conception of criminal jurisprudence among the Franks, and the king's relation to it, is distorted and in some respects quite wrong.

On the other hand the book closes with a short but most excellent popular account of the beginnings of feudalism, and it is refreshing to find an English writer who speaks of "Carolingians" instead of using the perverted form "Carlovingians."

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GEORGE, W. R., and STOWE, LYMAN B. *Citizens Made and Remade.* Pp. vi, 264. Price, \$1.25. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1912.

Trial and success in making the bad good is the record of achievement voiced in this little volume. Daddy George, as he is affectionately called, has given us a true picture of the evolution of his work in founding and developing the George Junior Republic, and told how he had forced in upon him by his personal work with the boys the need of developing the principles of self-government and reform through labor. The charm of the book lies in the humaneness of its interpretation, with the naïve blunders which resulted in a discovery of democracy. The curative power of labor likewise finds its justification as a perfectly natural growth in the little social community, though its introduction there came not as a result of reasoning but through pique at the impositions resulting from boyish greed. The soundness of the argument for self-expression and the development of democracy loses nothing of its charm because of its failure to prove its inheritance from some Greek or Hertzian philosopher, while the illustrations of its application by others in public schools, amid the steppes of Siberia and on the islands of the Pacific, prove both the universality of the doctrine and the suggestiveness of the experiment at Freeville, N. Y. The experience of Mr. George, interpreted and embellished by the grandson of a great liberator, should find a broad and interested public.

Mr. George has added to his book of fact—an interesting fact it is—a scheme of theory supposedly based upon his former experience, though nowhere does Mr. Stowe uphold this contention, and it is interesting to note that it is only Mr. George who has guaranteed to stake his reputation on its outcome. The scheme proposed for the reform of all criminals is a chain of walled camps, the criminal being dropped from one to the other as he commits crime against each camp community. The theory of the Nth power is lightly touched on, while the final camp is not definitely located, but this is not serious, for by the time the plan is discussed as an experiment to grow out of the Junior Republic, the serial idea of camps has been entirely forgotten, and we have left the really valuable suggestion of the development of the Junior Republic idea of self-expression and labor into the so-called honor system and productive education ideal which is to-day reforming our penal institutions.

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